

1 casino.

2 From this entry level position, I have  
3 moved up the corporate ladder one step at a time.  
4 With each step my hard work helped me advance to  
5 better positions. This has led to my present position  
6 as the manager of my own department for the past two  
7 and a half years.

8 The casino industry has created a positive  
9 atmosphere in my community, enabling me to live  
10 amongst friends and family, whereas previously I  
11 believed this would not have been possible.

12 Thank you for your time.

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

14 Steve -- and this is handwritten here, so  
15 that it's even more difficult to read.

16 MR. KARAISZ: The last name is Karaisz,  
17 Madame Chairman.

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Karaisz.

19 MR. KARAISZ: Members of the Commission,  
20 good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity to  
21 speak here today.

22 I want to tell you a brief story about a

1   guy who finally wised up one day in 1979 and took his  
2   father's advice who said, "Go on vacation this year,  
3   but do something with it. Go down to Atlantic City  
4   and look for a job in a new business, in a new  
5   industry that looks like it's got a lot of promise."

6               I'd heard Bally's Park Place, a casino-  
7   hotel property, was slated to open later that year.  
8   I went down, sought out the trailer on the parking lot  
9   with nothing else on it, got an application, filled it  
10   out, got interviewed, asked when I could start, hired  
11   all in the same day, and they told me I didn't need  
12   any experience, that they were kind of like the Armed  
13   Forces, that they would give me experience.

14              So I called home, quit my old job over the  
15   phone -- my boss wasn't thrilled with that -- called  
16   my folks, told them, "Send me what you can. Sell the  
17   rest," that I'd found a job in Atlantic City.

18              I started out as a security officer on the  
19   construction site for \$4.87 an hour. Shortly after  
20   that I was trained in the casino and security  
21   procedures. I learned a lot in that time, and after  
22   the property opened, I was promoted.

1           I was assigned a mentor. The casino sent  
2 me to schools. They sent me to seminars. They helped  
3 me to grow as a supervisor and as a person.

4           In 1987, I was promoted a second time,  
5 more responsibility, more schools. Now I was the  
6 mentor, and I got more money, and I bought myself a  
7 house. I was a real, real success in my own mind. I  
8 thought I had been doing very well.

9           But that wasn't enough for them. They  
10 challenged me to do more, sent me to more schools.  
11 They groomed me, I like to think, and made me what I  
12 am today, and in 1991 I was promoted a third time to  
13 the rank of shift manager, and that's what I currently  
14 serve in that capacity.

15           They put a great deal of faith in my  
16 abilities, and I'm eternally thankful for that.

17           People ask me about my work, and they ask  
18 me if I like what I do, and I tell them it's not  
19 really what I do. It's what I am. It's what I've  
20 become, and I love it.

21           I was able to do things with the extra  
22 money that I got through promotions. I went on

1 vacations and met my wife. We got married -- not at  
2 the same time, of course -- but we have two beautiful  
3 sons. We were able to buy a nice house in a community  
4 that was built from the casino influx of people. We  
5 call it Wonderful Street because things are really  
6 wonderful there for us, and without the casinos I  
7 wouldn't have all of the things that I have today.

8           The casinos take care of my needs  
9 security-wise for my family. They give me benefits,  
10 affairs to attend, nice functions for me to take my  
11 wife to, and a growing environment in the community  
12 that we really have learned to love based on all of  
13 the influx of new stores and businesses that have come  
14 in to help accommodate the people who now work in  
15 these 13 casino properties in Atlantic City.

16           The quality of life for my family has  
17 really improved every year since 1979 when I started  
18 working in the casino industry and took that vacation  
19 and listened to my dad's advice.

20           Thank you for the opportunity to speak  
21 here today.

22           CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

1                   We have approximately four more  
2 individuals, three that are on the list, one that  
3 showed up late and I put at the bottom of the list.  
4 I would be happy to entertain a motion to extend our  
5 period by 15 minutes so that all of those individuals  
6 who have traveled a great distance to be here could be  
7 heard.

8                   MR. WILHELM: So moved.

9                   CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Do I hear a second?

10                  PARTICIPANT: Second.

11                  CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

12                  DR. DOBSON: Madame Chairman, Mr. McCarthy  
13 and I both have a plane to catch. So we are going to  
14 have to slip out, but I intend no disrespect to the  
15 people remaining.

16                  CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I understand that we  
17 have Commissioners that are in that circumstance, but  
18 the chair will remain, and we will hear from everyone  
19 who's traveled in order to be here.

20                  Thank you.

21                  Ms. Juanita Hooper.

22                  MS. HOOPER: Yes. My name is Juanita